UNITED NATIONS

World Chronicle

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GUEST: **Joe Sills**
Spokesman for the United Nations Secretary-General

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UNITED NATIONS WRAP-UP 1993

Joe Sills, Spokesman for the United Nations Secretary-General, comments on a 16-minute video which illustrates the major events of 1993 as seen from a United Nations perspective.

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ANNOUNCER: From United Nations Headquarters in New York, this is **World Chronicle**, an unedited interview programme about major global issues. Here now to introduce our guest is the host of today's **World Chronicle**.

LITTLEJOHNS: I'm Michael Littlejohns, and this is **World Chronicle**.

There is no doubt that last year, 1993, was a year of great challenges for the United Nations, particularly in its efforts to uphold peace and human values. Peace missions around the world reached a record number, with ever increasing costs. Meanwhile, resources were tightly constrained.

Our guest today is a man with a unique perspective on 1993. He is Joe Sills, Spokesman for the United Nations Secretary-General.

Before I speak with Mr. Sills, let's look at a 16-minute year-end summary of the 1993 events as seen from a United Nations perspective. David Tereshchuk reports.

16 MINUTE YEAR-END SUMMARY
WORLD CHRONICLE NO. 535
"UNITED NATIONS WRAP-UP 1993"

VIDEO	AUDIO
	NARR
UN SOLDIER WITH RADIO	The familiar, long-established image of United Nations peacekeepers - standing between forces who agree to stop fighting.
	But their job has grown - and become more complicated. UN troops have increasingly found themselves trying to maintain security and bring humanitarian aid in the thick of fighting between opposing factions. And they've had to endure attacks upon themselves.
	Such was the greatly-changed picture of peace keeping in 1993.

SUPER 1993

TROOPS IN SOMALIA

The UN's task grew more into peace-building - than simply peace-keeping. And it was far from easy.

UN TROOPS ON PATROL

A major UN operation took place in Somalia, with United States forces initially taking the lead.

UNLOADING FOOD FROM SHIP

The primary aim was accomplished - that of bringing food to victims of the country's famine which had been aggravated by internal fighting.

WOMEN IN LINE

The course of hunger was finally held in check - the result of a enormous feeding program.

UN PATROLS

But work had to go on, to ensure recovery from all the ravages of civil war.

ROADBUILDING SEQUENCE

Efforts at reconstruction were extended throughout Somalia.

DISARMING OF RIVAL FORCES

In the countryside, rival forces were disarmed; a return to chaos was threatened if all factions did not give up their weapons.

PEOPLE WORKING IN FIELD

The economy - mainly agriculture - was helped to recover, with an overhaul of the irrigation system.

Farmers were growing their own food again. While starvation had killed 300,000 people

the previous year, virtually no-one died of hunger in 1993.

MEN SITTING AROUND TABLE

Social structures like new local councils, a revived judicial system and a freshly-trained police force were built up.

MOGADISHU

But in the capital, Mogadishu, the security situation remained unstable. UN forces themselves came under attack and they sustained serious casualties.

The United States, having reduced its presence and handed over command to the UN early in the year, gave notice it would withdraw its troops entirely by March 94.

SECRETARY-GENERAL MEETING UN SOLDIERS

When the Secretary-General went to Somalia he acknowledged the severe pressures in meeting all the world's peace-keeping needs.

SYNCH: MR.BOUTROS BOUTROS-GHALI

SECRETARY-GENERAL

"Let us talk frankly, you have a competition. We have 22 other situations all over the world. We have situations in Georgia, in Tajikistan, in Armenia, in Afghanistan, not to mention Africa where we have a terrible situation in Angola, Mozambique - so there is a competition."

UN SOLDIERS ON PATROL IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA	NARR Competing demands from troubled countries mounted relentlessly. In the former Yugoslavia fighting continued through the year.
GENEVA TALKS	Diplomatic representatives from the UN and from the European Union, tried to negotiate peace agreements, but only short-lived ceasefires were achieved.
TANK DRIVING DOWN STREET	UN work was carried out on behalf of the civilian population, but encountered huge difficulties.
	From the beginning the UN presence was intended to be a "protection force" for the delivery of humanitarian aid. Relief convoys often found it hard to reach towns besieged by hostile forces. Protection against the weather too had to be provided - a huge undertaking as a potentially lethal winter set in.
MAN AND SHEEP IN MACEDONIA	Elsewhere in the Balkans, UN efforts for peace were expanded in a different way. In the shadow of the violence in Bosnia and Croatia UN troops were sent to the neighbouring former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
	This was an innovative role, aimed at preventing hostilities before they might break out.

STREET SCENE IN CAMBODIA

A ground-breaking mission to Cambodia came to its conclusion in 1993, after an eighteen month involvement. The UN had to keep the peace - and much more besides.

UN TRUCK UNLOADING GRAVEL

It had to reconstruct the country's infrastructure, and train local people to clear away the countless landmines left from the war ...

it had to resettle 370,000 returning refugees ...

MAN PUTTING VOTE IN BOX

The process was occasionally marred by factional violence, and by attacks on UN personnel.

But democratic elections brought the mission to a successful end. The UN transitional authority organised a nationwide vote to choose a peacetime government. Cambodia was set upon a path, at least, toward democracy - with King Sihanouk installed as a constitutional monarch.

MAN IN MOBILE CHAIR IN ERITREA

Overseeing a vote was a success also in Eritrea. After 30 years of war to gain independence from Ethiopia, 1993 brought a referendum to determine the public will. And UN monitors were called in.

SYNCH: MR.SAMIR SANBAR

MR. SAMIR SANBAR

"We're not to run the referendum, we're just to verify that its done properly."

NARR
The result - an overwhelming majority for independence - was declared by the UN to have been free, fair, and impartially conducted.

SYNCH: ERITREAN VOTER

ERITREAN MAN

"This is the happiest day for everybody here in Eritrea".

NARR

MAN WITH DRUM DANCING

Within a month the newly-formed state of Eritrea took its place in the UN family of nations, along with six other countries who joined in 1993 - bringing total UN membership to 184 states.

PARTIALLY BURNT ANGOLAN FLAG

But a peace process was ripped apart in Angola, with even worse violence breaking out than in the previous 16 years of civil war. At one point casualties mounted to a thousand deaths per day - many times more than in the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. For much of the year this was a war without witnesses, largely unreported in the outside world. As ever, the children suffered most.

UNLOADING FOOD FROM TRUCK

Food and medical assistance were rushed in, against almost insuperable odds...

At length UN envoys were able to resume their efforts at brokering peace between the opposing sides.

LIBERIA & RWANDA
ARMED MEN RUNNING NEAR HOUSES

In other African conflicts peace was given a chance. The Liberian civil war was brought to a negotiated settlement in talks at Geneva. In Liberia and in Rwanda the UN worked in cooperation with regional groupings, notably the Organisation of African Unity to establish new, more stable forms of government.

COLOURED CAR IN HAITI

But in 1993 the UN's growing work for peace was characterised by increasingly difficult challenges more than by successes - as in the worsening problem of Haiti.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND TALKS

A plan for Haiti was drawn up in New York. Under the agreement the deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide would be allowed to return to his country, the military leaders who deposed him would step down and new guarantees for democracy would be implemented.

But deadlines for the agreement's implementation passed, the military leaders remained in power, and tension rose. An American ship bringing a UN mission to Haiti turned back, and a UN embargo was reimposed against the regime.

The President appealed to the UN General Assembly.

JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SYNCH: PRES. JEAN-BERTRAND ARISTIDE(TRANS. FROM FRENCH)
"Let us all march together, rich or poor, military or civilian. Let us say no to vengeance, no to violence, no to impunity, yes to reconciliation, yes to justice."

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING

NARR
One clear lesson for the world community was that the UN's ability to enforce peace - without the traditionally-required cooperation of all disputing parties - is severely limited. That was the Secretary-General's message to the Security Council in October - as his spokesman explained.

MR. JOE SILLS

SYNCH: Mr.JOE SILLS
"I don't think he would be prepared to say that there will not be, ever again, any more peace enforcement, but I think in this atmosphere, at this time, its very difficult, and we want to emphasise and underline, peace-keeping.
Q: Is that some sort of implicit acknowledgement that maybe the UN made a mistake?

No. I wouldn't say that, I would say that times change."

UN HELICOPTER

NARR
The scale of the task was daunting. In 1993 the number of UN peacekeeping missions climbed to eighteen, involving nearly 80,000 personnel world-wide - all of whom had to be equipped at ever-increasing costs.

All this against a background of tightening resources.

RADAR DISH BEING OPENED

Nations fell behind in their contributions, while spending increased. Over three times more was now being spent on peace-keeping than on the rest of the UN's work, such as development - which remained the biggest task.

It was a crisis, according to the Under-Secretary-General for administration.

SYNCH: MELISSA WELLS

MRS. MELISSA WELLS

"In the month of August I had less cash on hand, be it peacekeeping, be it regular budget, than to meet the expenses for one month. Now, in my book, that's a crisis. I can't print the money, I can't borrow the money. I can't steal it. What do you do?"

NARR

EXTERIOR OF UN HEADQUARTERS

In fact some countries, notably the United States, did pay some of their overdue back-payments, so the immediate crisis was alleviated. But the Organisation continued to lead a hand-to-mouth financial existence.

The other programs besides peacekeeping that make up the bulk of UN's work all had to continue.

WFP FOOD BARGE ON NILE

The never-ending struggle to get food to the starving, faced a special challenge along the River Nile. Food and medical supplies were sent by barge through territory held by opposing sides in the Sudanese civil war.

BLUE TENTS & MEN DIGGING/
ARMENIAN & AZERBAIJAN REFUGEES

Humanitarian efforts were intensified for refugees worldwide, whose numbers climbed to 44 million in 1993. More than half of them were homeless within their own national frontiers, mostly the victims of growing ethnic conflict.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees was called in to newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union. In Armenia and Azerbaijan territorial conflict had displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

SYNCH: REFUGEE WOMAN
(TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN)

REFUGEES WOMAN

"We have no water, no heat, no toilet, no light. Look at this, we have only four beds for eight people".

WOMAN CARRYING CHILD

NARR

In the world's poorest countries the UN continued its support for long-term development - as in Bangladesh, whose prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressed the General Assembly.

SYNCH: BEGUM KHALEDA ZIA
(TRANSLATED FROM BENGALI

BEGUM KHALEDA ZIA

"Poverty is the main challenge facing us. Special priority is being attached to the integration of women in the process of development."

NARR

MEN COUNTING MONEY

Bank loans for Bangladeshi women were supported by the World Bank and other agencies in the UN system, in line with their global commitment to women.

MAN ON CART IN FIELD

The concept of sustainable development gained extra emphasis in '93 from UN agencies and their local partners around the world. The previous year's 'Earth Summit' set up a Commission to ensure development everywhere would pay full attention to environmental concerns.

MAN RIDING ELEPHANT

Development in areas dominated by narcotic crops was the focus of a world-wide drive against illegal drugs. In Thailand farmers were being encouraged to abandon opium poppies in favour of different crops like strawberries. With UN agency help the new produce was made economically viable and other community rewards came from the switch - like new medical centres and schools.

LIZA MINELLI SINGS

World Aids Day brought entertainers and communicators to the UN.

	SYNCH: SECRETARY GENERAL
SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CAMERA	"The world must mobilize against Aids as it would against any common enemy. Our response must be united, determined, and universal."
	NARR
MAN DESTROYING WEAPONS	A crusade against another scourge - that of weapons of war - gained a boost in 1993.
PARIS CONFERENCE FOOTAGE	120 countries signed a UN treaty in Paris outlawing the manufacture, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.
	And the UN set up an international Arms Register, to monitor the sale and purchase of armaments of all kinds.
HELICOPTER SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE	In Iraq UN inspectors checked on the country's compliance with the agreement signed after the Gulf War to fully relinquish weapons of mass destruction.
WHITE HOUSE/ARAFAT AND RABIN	1993's historic agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel prompted the Secretary General to set up a high-level task force to mobilize more integrated efforts at development for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.
WOMEN WORKING IN FIELD	UN agency workers in Jericho helped Palestinians to translate research results into agricultural self-sufficiency.

UN MONITOR WITH UN FLAG

Peaceful transition was being maintained elsewhere. United Nations sanctions against South Africa were lifted in 1993.
Anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela affirmed that progress towards a non-racial, democratic rule was now irreversible.

SYNCH: NELSON MANDELA

NELSON MANDELA IN G.A.

We trust that the UN family will therefore not delay in engaging the people of South Africa in a new way."

NARR

UN MONITOR IN CROWDED STADIUM

The UN was already monitoring township fighting and killing. As the violence continued South Africa planned elections for April '94, and the UN prepared to act as observers.
The prospects were discussed at an unprecedented visit to the UN from the South African President F.W. de Klerk.

SYNCH: F. W DE KLERK

MR. F.W.DE KLERK ON CAMERA

"The process in South Africa is well on its way. I used the opportunity to inform the Secretary-General of the progress which we are making."

NARR

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

The first World Conference on Human Rights for 25 years, was held in 1993 in Vienna.

It recommended the appointment of a UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and it

called for women's concerns to be brought to the centre of attention. The conference also affirmed that children's rights should be fully recognised.

UN agencies' work with children in 1993 showed that people can substantially improve their lives and those of their families even in the worst conditions and in the poorest communities.

CHILD ON RUBBISH HEAP

... As in one of the most deprived regions of Brazil. Here despite most of the population living in poverty, child mortality was reduced by a third, with UNICEF help for community-based health-care.

CHILDREN WORKING IN FIELD

And elsewhere in Brazil, children were being taken out of hazardous work that had supported family incomes. With new financial incentives, parents were able to place their children in schools instead.

YOUNG BOY WITH GUN IN HAND

Children all around the world needed help to heal from the harm they suffered through poverty or bloody conflicts.

TEACHER IN CLASSROOM

It was a slow process, but it was essential work - as with the former child-soldiers in Mozambique who learned to leave behind wartime concerns... and enjoy those of peace. The most durable peace-building of all - children growing up in health and safety.

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LITTLEJOHNS: This is a special edition of World Chronicle. Our guest is Joe Sills, the spokesman for the United Nations Secretary-General. Joe, we've just seen a very interesting review of 1993. But I'm not sure how you see it, but it seems to me that the successes are probably exceeded by the failures. Or at least the setbacks. How do you review the year?

SILLS: I think it's correct to say that there were a large number of successes and setbacks. As we get into more complicated operations, operations which involve not just interposing UN troops between two parties who have agreed that they want to have the peace kept.

But as we get into operations which frequently are between parties who have not agreed on the grounds for a peaceful settlement. Where there are elections involved - where there's humanitarian assistance involved - where there are huge numbers of landmines to be cleared and the like, the chances for full success become more and more difficult. So I think particularly in two areas as we come to the end of this year, the former Yugoslavia and Somalia, we have some tremendously large unanswered questions. And some others we've been much more successful, so I think it's a mixed report card at the end of the year.

LITTLEJOHNS: Now the end of the Cold War was supposed to have ushered in a period when the United Nations would be able to do the things that it was unable to do when east and west were at each other's throats, at least ideologically. What's happened? Why is it that these things have not happened and why is it that there's now a growing element again of disillusionment with the organization?

SILLS: Well, what the end of the Cold War did in terms of the UN's operations was it brought a great deal more cooperation within the Security Council. The veto, the Cold War type veto has ended and there's much more - while there have been some negative votes, there's much more cooperation. Particularly, among the permanent members. What the end of the Cold War did not do was do away with a lot of the simmering conflicts, particularly ethnic conflicts, which in fact had been hidden by the cold war, and particularly by the very large presence of the Soviet Union.

And you had a great many new countries become independent, countries in the former Soviet Union. You had the breakup of Yugoslavia and a lot of the ethnic hatreds and uncertainties and problems that had been sort of kept under a blanket all of a sudden are out in the open. So I think we have a different kind of world now that the Cold War is over.

There is far less concern about nuclear weapons, even though that still remains a very large concern, but it's a diminished concern. And we now hear about ethnic violence, about the breakup of nation states, about dealing with some of the hatreds which have been existing for centuries. And this is the agenda we have to look at in 1994, and frankly, I don't think we know yet how to deal with it.

LITTLEJOHNS: Let's look at peacekeeping again. I understand that the Secretary-General has been trying to put together a force to replace the contingents that will pull out of Somalia fairly soon but having not much success. Is the time rapidly approaching when the UN will really have to cut back on its peacekeeping operations now that it's really built them up to what, eighty thousand in eighteen places?

SILLS: Eighteen places. Well, specifically in Somalia, I think you're absolutely correct, Michael, to say that there are some problems, major problems. As you know, when the United States president announced the US withdrawal, President Clinton wrote to a number of member countries --

The Secretary-General is in the process of consulting a number of members of the United Nations to determine replacement forces both for the United States and for some other members of UNISOM who have indicated that they're pulling out.

And as of this time, these have not been very successful overtures. Now a major portion of the problem most immediately as we approach the end of '93 and the US begins its withdrawal, is logistical capability. And we are looking both at replacing the US logistical capability from member states, and also at the alternative of using private corporations, private firms, private capabilities. Whether or not at the end of March we'll have to close down our operation, it's a possibility. I tend to think we won't. I tend to think that we will be able to put together a continuing operation in Somalia because it certainly will be necessary after the end of March.

LITTLEJOHNS: Tell us a bit about preventive diplomacy. The Secretary-General in his annual report to the General Assembly, referred to this area of UN activity. Can you tell us a bit about that?

SILLS: Well, I can sort of tell you something in concept, but not too many details, because by its very nature, preventive diplomacy if it's successful, nobody wants to talk about it.

But what it basically means is utilizing the efforts of the Secretary-General, what we know here as the "good offices" of the Secretary-General and of the senior people, to go into situations in advance before they explode into conflict and try to help work them out. This is obviously very cost-efficient, because it's much more inexpensive to do that than to send a full fledged peacekeeping force. The capabilities of the Secretary-

General, of his senior staff for preventive diplomacy have been increased greatly recently and there's a great deal going on.

And I think that some of the successes will not appear in the news because one of the things you do with the two parties involved, accept the quiet compromise. They frequently don't want it broadcast that they've done so, but I think there will be more and more efforts of this type by the Secretary-General in the future.

LITTLEJOHNS: Is this what you call peace building, as distinct from peacekeeping?

SILLS: Well, I think peace building is a bit more general than this. I think it does include the preventive diplomacy, but there are many other elements to peace building. For instance, human rights, development, alleviating conditions of almost total poverty. All of these are elements in building up a peaceful situation so preventive diplomacy is one of several things that need to be used.

LITTLEJOHNS: The UN is continuing to have financial problems. I think you mentioned very recently that by the end of January the arrears will amount to, approaching three billion dollars (US $3B) which by UN terms is an enormous amount of money. What's being done to try to resolve that problem?

SILLS: Well, the figure is close to that. We will send out at the beginning of January the dues notices for 1994 and under the UN regulations, they're supposed to be paid at the end of that month. Very few countries do that and if they don't, we will have a total arrearages for peacekeeping as well as regular budget of about two point seven billion (US$ 2.7B) which you're right, in our terms, it's a lot of money.

It's a lot of money in anybody's terms. All we can do is encourage. We can plead, we can cajole, we can try to get the member states to understand the position into which this is putting the UN. But as you saw the Under-Secretary-General Wells say, we can't print the money, we can't borrow the money and we certainly can't steal the money.

So we're in a position where we cannot reimburse member states who are providing troops for peacekeeping. We're falling behind in a lot of our projects and we're coming close to the point where the Secretary-General is going to have to say to the member states when they ask him to do something, I'm sorry, I can't pay for it.

LITTLEJOHNS: How would you rate relations between the UN and the United States now. We heard President Clinton address the General Assembly and in his address he more or less suggested that perhaps the UN was biting off more than it could chew. Has this produced tensions with Washington?

SILLS: I think there have been some tensions. I don't regard them as major. I think that statement failed to close the circle there, because it failed to make the point that most of the things which the UN bites off that are large in the peacekeeping and security area, all of them are done by the Security Council. And the United States as one of the five permanent members, can veto any that it doesn't like. So I think that there needed to be a bit of an addition to that statement.

But I think that the Secretary-General has had good relations with the president and with certainly - with Secretary of State of Clinton, they have very frank discussions. They have very candid discussions, they don't agree on everything. But they do agree on goals. They agree for instance on Somalia, that what we want to do is to complete the operation there in such a way that it gives the people of Somalia a chance to have a successful future. And so there's no real fundamental disagreement on goals between Washington and headquarters here.

LITTLEJOHNS: You mentioned the Security Council. The Security Council has adopted during the year, well over a hundred and eighty resolutions or declarations, yet most of them remain unenforced. What can be done about that?

SILLS: Well, I think this is a major problem and I don't want to get into hot water with the Council, but under the Charter, these resolutions of the Council are binding on member states. And I think it is a problem when increasingly a larger and larger number of resolutions have less and less impact. And I think the authority of the Council and the ability of the Council to assert that authority is absolutely essential to this organization working effectively. And I think this is something the Council will have to be attentive to in the future.

LITTLEJOHNS: Mr. Sills, that's all the time we have. Thank you for joining us on this special edition of World Chronicle. Our guest has been Joe Sills, spokesman for the United Nations Secretary-General. I'm Michael Littlejohns. Thank you for joining us. We invite you to be with us for the next edition of World Chronicle.

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